

Levy Oversight Committee

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Madison Middle School

3429 - 45th Avenue SW 98116

Meeting Purpose:

- Review of Middle School Innovation/Middle School Support Program

1:00 pm	Welcome and Introductions	David Della
1:05	Review of Agenda	David Della
1:10	Approval of Minutes from 1/17/06	David Della
1:15	Brief Introductory Remarks	Holly Miller Ruth Medsker Aimee Hirabayashi
1:20	Denny Middle School	Jeff Clark
1:30	Mercer Middle School	Andhra Lutz
1:40	Linkage Schools	Princess Shareef
1:50	Aki Kurose	Bi Hoa Caldwell
2:00	Madison Middle School	Jill Hudson
2:10	Discussion	All
2:30	Madison After School Program Tour	Jill Hudson Donna Hudson
3:00	Adjourn	David Della

Next Meetings

March 21: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

- Family Support Worker Program Briefing
- Family Involvement Program Briefing

April 18: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Handouts

Minutes of 1/17/06

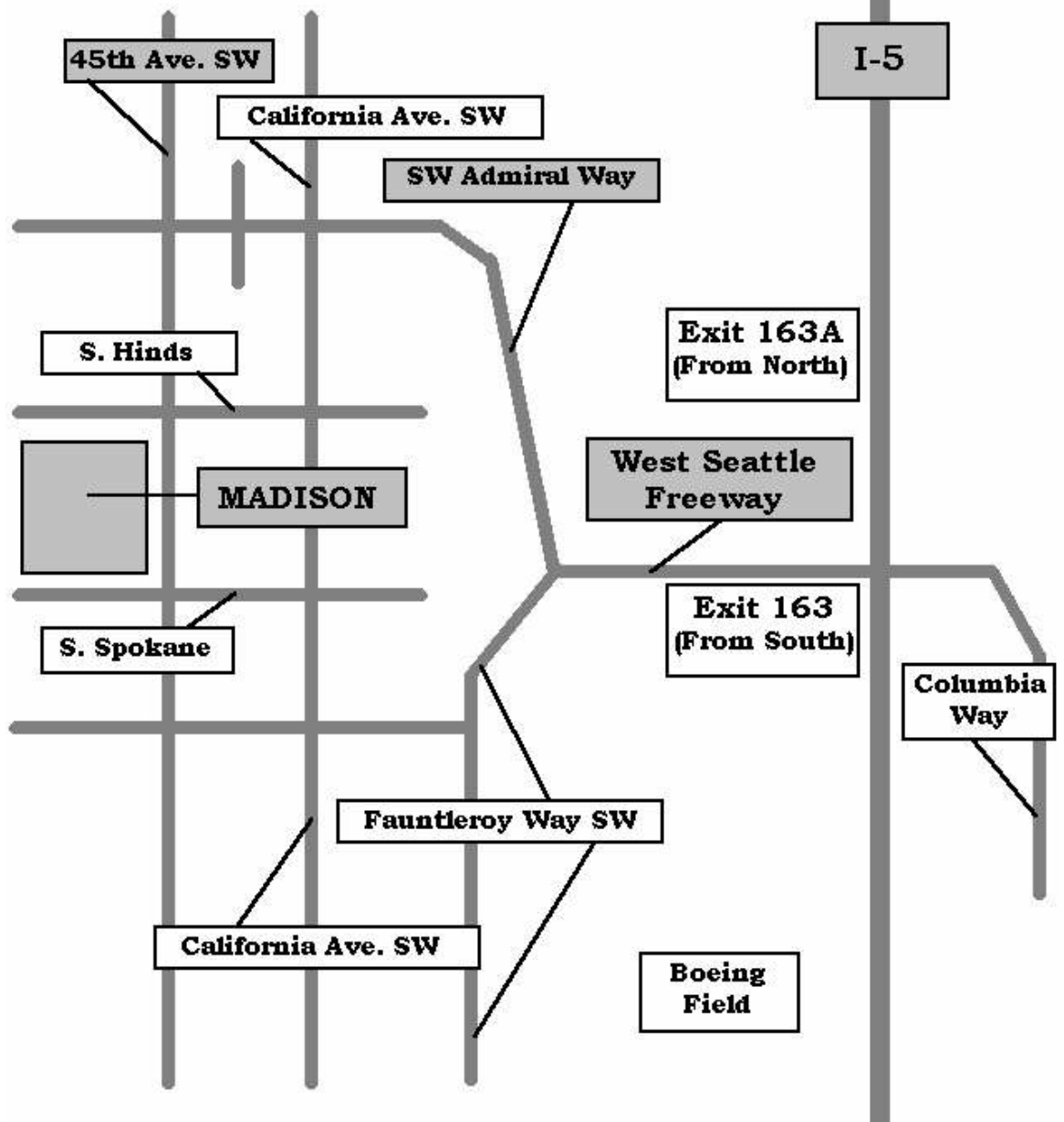
Middle School Progress Reports

Membership Update

DIRECTIONS

Traveling North on I-5, take the 163 West Seattle Exit.
Traveling South on I-5, take the 163A West Seattle Exit.

Continue along the West Seattle Freeway to the SW Admiral Exit (on your right, bottom of the hill). Follow Admiral Way up the hill, through 2 stoplights, (California Ave). Continue for 2 more blocks to 45th Ave. Turn left onto 45th, continue for approx. ½ mile. The school is on your right between S. Hinds and S. Spokane streets.





DRAFT

**FAMILIES AND EDUCATION LEVY
LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**
Tuesday, January 17, 2006 • 4:00–5:30 p.m.
Norman B. Rice Conference Room, City Hall



MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Someireh Amirfaiz, Tim Ceis, Cheryl Chow, Councilmember David Della, Kris Hildebrandt, Antonio Hopson, Marie Kurose, Raj Manhas, John Pehrson, Debra Sullivan

OTHERS PRESENT: Jessica de Barros (Office for Education), Carla Bryant (OFE), Donnie Grabowski (OFE), Sonja Griffin (HSD), Terry Hayes (HSD), Donna Hudson (Parks), Patricia Lee (City Council), Patricia McInturff (Human Services Department), Holly Miller (OFE), Thelma Payne (SPS), Patti Petesch (Parks), Robin Pfoman (Public Health), Janet Preston (SPS), Liezl Tomas Rebugio (HSD), Mary Jean Ryan (Office of Policy & Management), Sid Sidorowicz (OFE), Yvonne Sanchez (Dept of Neighborhoods), Anne Shields (Public Health), Adie Simmons (SPS), Kristi Skanderup (Middle School Support Consultant), Cheryl Swab (Finance), David Washington (HSD), Billie Young (HSD).

Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis called the meeting to order. The minutes from the November 11, 2005 meeting were approved with no objections.

Jessica de Barros presented the draft Levy Baseline Report. She explained the purpose of the report is to establish the baseline from which we will measure academic improvements from Levy investments. There will also be an interim report issued in April showing progress to date. J. de Barros noted what's working well, areas that need more work, and issues to pay attention to in the future.

J. de Barros presented the baseline information for the Early Learning Networks. A. Hopson asked what the siting difficulties with pre-k programs are. H. Miller noted there was a change in SPS policy after HSD and individual schools had been following the current procedures. The change was dictated in part by the potential for school closures. There is a new coordinator developing a siting policy and procedure for SPS.

T. Ceis asked for an explanation about the failure to implement the DIAL-3 school readiness assessment this year and how we will compensate. H. Miller explained that after significant training and lead time, teachers balked at applying the assessment. The tool will be used at the end of the year and applied to a sample of children who did not attend Levy pre-schools for a comparison group. The city is working with the new SPS early learning coordinator on an approach. J. Pehrson asked that the baseline report note where such partnerships are necessary to measure outcomes.

R. Manhas and C. Chow asked how the DIAL3 corresponds with current practice, and whether a shortened version could be used to reduce impact on teacher time. H. Miller responded that the DIAL 3 is a normed tool and cannot be altered without affecting its reliability. The current

tool used by SPS is not normed. C. Chow asked if the DIAL-3 is intended to replace current practice. H. Miller responded that is our hope, but it cannot be forced on SPS. Ideally, the tool will be integrated into the system and not be used just for Levy children.

M. Kurose asked if additional resources were provided to support teachers who were applying the DIAL 3. H. Miller responded that training was provided, but the City cannot afford to pay for teacher time. The City is concerned about the financial bow wave of this practice. If the DIAL 3 replaced the current SPS tool, there should be no additional cost.

M. Kurose asked about bilingual status for ELN youth. S. Sidorowicz explained that demographic information of ELN children is limited until youth enter Seattle Public Schools. B. Young noted that the ELN programs implemented so far have focused on bilingual youth, particularly Latino families.

J. de Barros then described baseline data for the Family Support Worker Program. D. Della asked what strategies were being used for students who had not passed the WASL. J. de Barros responded that the purpose of the program is to provide individualized support for these children.

J. de Barros noted that the FSW program already appeared to be exceeding the target for students passing the math and reading WASL. T. Ceis asked how targets will be adjusted. H. Miller responded that targets would be adjusted as part of the budget process. M. Ryan noted that the City did not have the ability to review this baseline data before. This is a new capability for the Levy. P. McInturff asked since the targets are already being exceeded for the FSW program, should caseloads be reduced and clients better targeted. T. Payne responded that FSW caseloads and WASL results appear high because FSWs were working with children getting them ready for school, however these are not FSW focus families.

J. de Barros described the Out-of-School Time and Middle School Support baselines. D. Sullivan asked for more information about the concerns Community Learning Centers (CLCs) have about Student Learning Plans (SLPs). H. Miller said that some CLCs feel they could be a bridge between schools and families. They believe they could improve family engagement in the SLPs.

D. Sullivan asked why targets are so low for these programs. J. de Barros responded that the City did not have baseline information before and these targets will be adjusted. H. Miller pointed out that there were many concerns about the targets since funding is tied to achieving them. A. Hopson asked if targets would continue to increase. T. Ceis responded that there will be more meaningful targets after this first year. He agreed it was reasonable to set the targets low without baseline information since funding is at stake. There is a consensus that targets should be raised.

J. Pehrson asked why there are 8 CLCs, and how they were chosen. S. Sidorowicz responded that these sites were, and still are, receiving funds from other sources. The City is leveraging these other funds at the existing sites. One new site, Madison Middle School, was added because it is an Innovation Site.

J. de Barros then reviewed baseline information for the Seattle Team for Youth Program. M. Kurose noted that returning to school is dependent on school administrators, and asked how STFY is working with them. T. Hayes responded that case managers work with schools on reentry plans. If these are unsuccessful, the case manager works with the Interagency schools. M. Kurose also asked if discipline was used in setting STFY targets. T. Hayes responded that it was not.

J. de Barros reviewed Health baseline information. A. Hopson asked if Health programs would be cut if they did not meet their academic targets. H. Miller pointed out that these programs have health related outcomes as well as academic ones.

M. Ryan reviewed the activities of the Superintendent's Committee on Excellence in Education. She stated that the committee looked at improving academic focus of the school district as well as improving financial stability. They are calling for more rigor in High School; quality core curriculum in all classrooms; curriculum aligned across schools; targeted class size reduction, especially at transition grades; remedial education; and high teacher and principal quality.

On the financial side, the committee recommends benchmarking costs compared to other districts; closure of some schools; transportation and administrative cost reductions; increase in revenue from management of real estate and improved philanthropic giving; and increased market share. The committee also expects an increase in state funding this year.

D. Della asked if the committee is being successful linking financial changes with academic outcomes. Are freed resources being targeted to schools in need? M. Ryan responded the committee hopes SPS adopts their core recommendations which emphasize leading with academic success. School quality should lead all decisions.

J. Pehrson asked if the committee is expected to have an ongoing role. M. Ryan replied they are working on that recommendation now.

B. Young and David Washington presented the proposed plan for the Compensation Project for the Early Learning Networks. The project is expected to support high quality pre-school education for children age 0-3 in ELN pre-school sites. The project provides incentives for teachers to improve quality by increasing training, and reducing teacher turnover. The goal is to have 42 teachers involved by the end of the year. Quality will be measured by classroom scores and reduced turnover. HSD is using outcome based contracts for this project. P. McInturff explained the match requirements on providers. The amount they receive from the city will not grow year to year.

H. Miller reviewed the City's proposal for the use of Levy II fund balance. A. Hopson asked if some funding could be used to support implementation of the DIAL 3. H. Miller replied that this will be taken up as a mid-course correction. C. Chow recommended providing support to schools for the DIAL 3 implementation.

H. Miller asked that comments about the baseline report be sent within the next two weeks. (A follow-up e-mail was sent asking for all comments by January 31.)

The meeting was adjourned.

Middle School Support Program October 2005 Monthly Report

Overview: The Middle School Support Program made significant progress in October toward key meeting 1st quarter milestones. In place are: yearlong milestones; a common middle school format for a Student Learning Plan; and common middle school math and reading assessments. Underway are: hiring of MSSP staff/contractors; the identification of target students at each school site; the development of Student Learning plans for each target student; parent/guardian outreach; and the development of additional community resources for target students. MSSP highlights are outlined below.

School Updates: Innovation Schools

The Innovations Schools are each developing their own approach, but all are making significant progress in meeting the key 1st quarter milestones of: hiring levy staff, identifying target students, developing 'resource teams,' identifying student academic baselines, and writing student learning plans. The Innovation School principals meet together on the second Tuesday of the month to discuss progress and share challenges in their MSSP work. Specific innovation school highlights include:

- **Denny** has hired Mike Griffin (certificated teacher with experience teaching in the Bronx and Denny alum) as their Student Success Coordinator. Mike attended the Developmental Reading Assessment training (DRA) this month and will be supporting teachers in giving the new middle school assessment. Denny's Resource Team has met twice to develop meeting membership and protocol and to identify target students. The Resource Team represents social service providers, the math and literacy coaches, after school providers and Student Health Center providers. Denny is developing their program by first targeting and writing plans for 10 students; they will expand their numbers over the coming months as they develop best practices and refine their system.
- Although **Madison** is still in the process of hiring their levy staff, principal Jill Hudson is working with Madison's Community in Schools staff, Karen Dietrich, to review student assessment data and identify students. Madison has identified an initial 198 target students after reviewing student performance on the WASL, DRA, Success Maker (a computer based math assessment) and current classroom progress reports. Madison is beginning to write their Student Learning Plans and develop a case management system for all target students.
- **Aki** has developed a Student Service Team that is a combination of social service providers, health care providers, YMCA extended day providers and education staff. All members of the Student Service Team are developing proficiency in understanding student achievement and assessment, working to bridge the gap between social service staff and educators. The 7th grade – grade level teams have already identified their target students and the 6th and 8th grade teams are still in the process of identifying students. Aki is still in the process of hiring their levy staff.
- **Mercer** has hired Judy Coryell as their Student Success Coordinator. Judy is a certified house administrator who has experience both as a vice-principal and doing 're-entry' work for students who have dropped out. Mercer is in the process of reviewing assessments, identifying students and developing individual Student Learning Plans. Knowing that math is a key area of concern for many students, principal Andhra Lutz is piloting a Saturday 'Math Madness' curriculum for students who are struggling in math. The class meets every other Saturday for 3 hours and uses a proven kinesthetic approach to math that incorporates skill building, problem solving and pizza.

School Updates: Linkage Schools

- **Meany** Middle School principal Princess Shareef was selected by her colleagues to coordinate the MSSP Linkage schools. Linkage School Principals are in the process of: hiring levy staff; identifying target students; developing expertise at writing Student Learning Plans; and developing a quarterly schedule for their 'resource teams' to meet. Princess Shareef and Barb Salo met with all

middle school principals at the Middle School Cluster meeting on October 20 to discuss parameters and strategies for writing Student Learning Plans. One Linkage school highlight is:

- **McClure** is a Linkage School that is leading the way for individualizing student learning. Principal Kathy Bledsoe and Counselor Lisa Dawson have developed a system for 'Mini Sits' where block teachers at every grade level identify up to 10 students and meet with the principal, a counselor, and identified support staff once a month to identify student strengths and barriers to learning, develop instructional modifications, identify necessary support and interventions and to monitor progress. They have Student Learning Plans for numerous students already in place due to their forward thinking 'Mini Sit' process.

MSSP Connections underway

- MSSP coordinators are working with SPS District Bi-lingual staff to co-pilot an after school or weekend program for an identified population of middle school students.
- The Innovation School Coordinator Training on October 31st is an opportunity for levy staff to come together to share highlights and challenges and to work with veteran Seattle School District counselor Kory Kumasaka on issues of cultural competence and youth growth and development.
- A common Middle School Student Learning Plan has been developed that will be used for all LAP students, all 8th graders who have failed one or more areas of the WASL and all MSSP target students. On November 8, Ramona Pierson (SPS Technology Department), and Sid Sidorowicz (Office for Education), and Barb Salo (SPS Title1/LAP Student Services Manager), will be joining the MSSP Principals meeting to discuss possible strategies for further refining the Student Learning Plan as a tool.
- MSSP coordinators are working with innovation school principals, Ruth Metzger (Middle School Director) and Barb Salo to develop a math curriculum that would be structured so that it could be taught by a variety of providers outside of the school day and would align with the classroom curriculum and would target math strands that a majority of students are failing.

Upcoming November work includes:

- Continue collaborations with district leaders for Bi-lingual students, Special Education students and the Technology Department.
- Site visits to each of the Linkage Schools to provide needed support.
- Attend Innovation School Resource Team meetings.
- Collect target student names from Innovation and Linkage Schools.

Middle School Support Program November 2005 Monthly Report

Overview: November work focused on reviewing data, identifying target students names and writing Student learning plans at the 4 Innovation Schools (800 target students) and 13 Linkage Schools (400 students). Although we won't have a total count until the first week in December, we know that schools have been working hard and most or all schools will have their target student lists to Middle School Director Ruth Medsker as planned. We will celebrate this good work at a dinner meeting on December 6th with Innovation school, district and city leaders. Schools are also in the process of creating individual Student Learning Plans (SLPs) for every target student. Many schools have completed all their SLPs and are working to make them useful, living documents. All middle schools are using the same SLP format and Ramona Pierson (SPS) and Sid Sidorowicz (OFE) are collaborating to ensure that the SLPs will be online for schools by the end of January. Also underway is: the creation of a Curriculum Design Team to develop an after school curriculum for math and reading; bi-monthly Resource Team meetings at each Innovation School; and planning for a WASL Prep camp this spring.

School Updates: Innovation Schools

All four Innovations Schools have hired coordinators, identified target students and are creating individual Student Learning Plans for each student. Although it looks a little different across schools, coordinators are convening resource teams, which represent a broad range of school and community resources, to address needs identified in the student learning plans. Additional innovation school highlights include:

- **Denny** has been focused on building relationships and creating alignment between it's academic and social service programs so that as a team, Denny can effectively serve the whole student. Denny's Resource Team has been meeting for a month and a half and includes representatives from the Community Learning Center, Wellness Center, Proyecto Saber, South West Community Center, math and literacy coaches, the principal and the MSSP Success Coordinator. Denny will be sending 4 representatives to participate in the Curriculum Design Team.
- **Madison** hired Jolene Grimes as their MSSP Coordinator. Jolene brings extensive experience and passion to this position with her background as a lead middle school teacher, after school provider, and as a certified administrator. Jolene is convening her first Resource Team meeting in December and has invited a wide range of school and community resources to attend. Madison is still experimenting with how best to implement Student Learning Plans and engage parents in buying into the plan. Other key components of their work to date includes: getting to know target students through individual interviews and surveys; developing a case management system for all target students that is spread among a number of faculty; sending a team to a Knowing Math training to see if it's appropriate to use with target students; and using Success Maker (a computer based math program) to get math baselines and track progress.
- **Aki** hired Iyatundi Akunyun to manage the levy services at Aki. Aki has a Student Service Team of about 15 members that meets during the school's study group time to discuss student needs and school and community resources. The faculty is also organized to work on students by grade level. The 7th grade team wrote individual student learning plans for over 200 students. The 6th grade team has written over 100 plans. All members of the Student Service Team are developing proficiency in understanding student achievement and assessment, working to bridge the gap between social service staff and educators.
- **Mercer's** Student Success Coordinator, Judy Coryell, worked with the sixth grade block teachers and the seventh grade math teachers to identify their target students. She's also working with teachers to formulate a plan for how to connect teachers with a small cohort of students who they will mentor and with whom they'll do an after-school academic program focused on preparing students for the WASL. The response to the Saturday Math Madness continues to be excellent – a

testament to how meaningful it is to offer students and families a personalized academic opportunity. Their Resource Team is meeting every other Tuesday and is working well together.

School Updates: Linkage Schools

Most, if not all, Linkage Schools have identified their target students and are well into the process of creating plans for each target student. MSSP coordinators visited almost every Linkage School in November to help strategize about how to most effectively combine school resources to serve target students with limited levy funds. The 6 largest Linkage Schools will be meeting in early January to share what's working and identify ways to collaborate.

- Whitman is a good example of how one of the larger Linkage schools is focusing services for its target students. In the past, School based social and academic services (such as the nurse, the Home-school coordinator, Pioneer Counseling, academic support teachers) have communicated with each other about their students, but have not coordinated which students they work with. Michael Starosky, the assistant principal who in charge of the levy at Whitman, is looking at becoming more intentional about coordinating support services for those students who are behind academically. He will be targeting students who are in one of their ASE classes (Academic Support Enrichment - additional support for students who have not passed the WASL), and then coordinating needed support services for these students through their Student Services Team.

MSSP Connections/Collaborations

- The Curriculum Design Team will be ready to convene in December and include a diverse group of selected representatives from the Innovation schools and Parks and Recreation. The purpose of Team is to develop a math and reading curriculum that will target common areas of need for students who are behind, will be fun and engaging and can easily be used by out of school providers and tutors who might not be teachers. This work is made possible through a collaborative effort of the MSSP and the Parks and Recreation Community Learning Centers (Donna Hudson).
- Ramona Pierson (SPS Technology) and Sid Sidorowicz (Office for Education), and Barb Salo (SPS Title1/LAP Student Services Manager) joined the November MSSP Principals meeting to review and finalize what student data will be collected and how. Through a collaboration between the district and the city, it was decided that Ramona will be able to get the Student Learning Plans online by the end of January. Having the SLPs online will facilitate this process at the school, district and city level.
- MSSP coordinators are working with innovation school principals, Ruth Metzger (Middle School Director) and Barb Salo to develop a math curriculum that would structured so that it could be taught by a variety of providers outside of the school day and would align with the classroom curriculum and would target math strands that a majority of students failing.

Upcoming December work includes:

- A celebration of meeting 1st quarter milestones with District, City and School leaders
- Site visits to remaining Linkage Schools to provide needed support.
- Work with LAP leaders and principals to coordinate a spring WASL PREP camp.
- Review baseline data of Student Learning Plans
- Site visits to Innovation School Resource Team meetings (December/January)

Middle School Support Program December 2005 Monthly Report

Overview: More than 1200 target students have been identified by the 17 middle schools and K-8s. Schools are in a variety of places with their student learning plans – most have written them and many schools are refining the process and working on how to make the useful, living documents. We celebrated reaching our first milestone at a dinner meeting on December 6 with Innovation school principals and coordinators, city Levy leaders and the Superintendent of Seattle Schools. Holly Miller, Office for Education, thanked the principals and school coordinators for their innovative work and presented each one with a small token of appreciation – a Starbucks gift card. The Curriculum Design Team (for out-of-school time) met for the first time and will continue meeting through January. Through a collaborative effort of LAP and Middle School leaders, plans are underway to design a middle school WASL Camp during spring break this year to serve middle school target students.

School Updates: Innovation Schools

With target students identified and Resource Teams in place, each school is in the process of developing a system for coordinating school and community resources to best meet student needs. Innovation school highlights for December include:

- **Denny** has reorganized their entire 2nd semester course offerings and master schedule in order to better meet the needs of students who are not yet at standard. They have identified students by specific strands in both reading and math and are assigning them to have an extra reading, math or MSSP language arts class. Each of these classes will target skills areas that students are deficient in.
- **Madison** held its first Resource Team meeting in December and is working hard to develop and coordinate the various in- and out-of-school resources in Madison Community. They have completed all of their Student Learning Plans and are developing strategies to get parent and student buy in and support.
- **Aki** is holding team meetings every week at all grade levels and focusing attention and resources on target students. They have placed a number of students in double math classes and are currently working on a WASL prep strategy for students, parents and teachers. Aki has written all their SLPs but is in the process of improving their system for sharing and updating the information.
- **Mercer** graduated their first Saturday *Math Madness* class with rave reviews. The class, which principal Andhra Lutz taught (testing out a modified KIP Schools curriculum – a creative, hands-on approach to math skills and problem solving) was a huge success with students and parents and had the added benefit of providing assisting teachers with a creative professional development opportunity. Mercer is also in the midst of developing a model that will pair teachers with target students to provide after-school mentoring and tutoring.

MSSP Connections/Collaborations

- The Curriculum Design Team had their first meeting right before the Christmas break. The team includes a diverse group of selected representatives from the Innovation schools, Parks and Recreation and the YMCA. The purpose of the team is to develop a math and reading curriculum that will target common areas of need for students who are behind, will be culturally relevant, fun and engaging, and can easily be used by out-of-school providers and tutors who might not be teachers. This work is made possible through a collaborative effort with Parks and Recreation Community Learning Centers (Donna Hudson) and MSSP.
- Initial planning took place for a spring break WASL Camp at the December MSSP Principals meeting. A collaborative effort between Barb Salo (LAP), Ruth Medsker, Middle School Director, and the middle school principals is underway with hopes of serving up to 30 target

students in math and reading from each middle school at two central locations – a south end and a north end school. More info to come.

Upcoming January work includes:

- A working breakfast with the 6 largest Linkage schools to celebrate meeting their first milestone and share strategies.
- Site visits to Innovation School Resource Team meetings
- Develop and share strategies for monitoring students' mid-year progress.
- MSSP team and Innovation principals meet with Hal Williams and Holly Miller to assess mid-year progress
- Curriculum Design Team underway; continue planning for the WASL Camp.

Middle School Support Program January 2006 Monthly Report

Overview: Each of the Innovation schools is carving out a unique path to meeting target students needs. Innovation School strategies include: a complete renovation of the master schedule for second semester to better meet the needs of struggling students; finding creative ways to extend the day for student learning; creating opportunities for teachers to build relationships with small number of students as their mentor and tutor after school; and all faculty using homeroom as a time to do practice WASL prep lessons. All the Innovation principals met with the Office for Education leaders in January to update them on their progress and discuss any needs for mid-course corrections. The larger Linkage Schools gathered for the first time in early January to share best practices in their levy work.

School Updates: Innovation Schools

Innovation school highlights for January include:

- **Denny** has completely restructured their 2nd semester course offerings and master schedule in order to better meet the needs of individual students who are not yet at standard. They are providing a second math or reading class for MSSP students: students will have the same teacher and will be grouped with students of their same race and in some cases gender. Denny is using remaining MSSP dollars to hire an additional teacher who will teach 2nd – 7th periods, allowing for a group of students to keep their elective during the day and take their second core class after school. In conjunction with South Park Community Center, Denny is providing WASL Camps to targeted students during the December, February and Spring breaks. In conjunction with the district Bilingual Department, Denny is piloting an after-school dual language program for Latino students. The community appears to be aware of the changes underway at Denny - three times as many parents attended Denny's first January parent choice tour this year as compared to last year!
- **Madison** held its first Community Resource Team meeting in December and had an impressive 35 organizations attend. Madison is working on partnering with these organizations both in the school and in the community. The MSSP Coordinator has recruited 'Key Players' who will each be responsible for supporting and monitoring a subset of the target students SLPs. Key Players are now in the process of meeting individually with students, setting goals, developing their SLPs and getting parent input and support. Madison's primary 'theory of action' is extending learning time for students and they have a number of interventions underway, including: Knowing Math; Special; Golden Opportunities (Saturday program)
- **Aki** is holding team meetings every week at all grade levels to discuss students needs. The support staff study group is developing a flow chart for student interventions to propose to the staff. In late January Aki is going to start implementing common WASL prep activities across all homerooms – 2 days a week in reading/writing and 2 days a week in math – based on a strategy that was extremely successful in Oak Harbor. They have also held 2 WASL parent nights over the last 2 months. The 6th grade counselor has teamed up with Gear-up to provide an innovative before school tutoring program where 8th graders tutor and mentor struggling 6th grade students. Plans are underway for changes to next year's schedule – giving struggling students a second reading class with their same language arts teacher.
- **Mercer** is getting ready to launch their 5-week program that pairs teachers with 6 – 10 target students to provide mentoring and tutoring after school. The first Math Madness Saturday class had such rave reviews they are getting ready to launch another class second semester. In the works are plans to have a 3-week summer session for incoming 6th graders in August.

Linkage Schools

The 6 largest Linkage schools (Washington, Eckstein, Whitman, McClure, Hamilton and Meany) met in January for an early morning breakfast meeting to celebrate meeting their first milestone, discuss their MSSP work and to share strategies. The six schools are using their levy dollars in a variety of

ways to improve the achievement of their target students. All schools are developing strategies for focusing school resources on target students. **Eckstein** House Administrator Chris Kinsey, who oversees their levy funds, shared their approach to supporting target students. He meets with their target students (7th and 8th graders) once a week during homeroom. He started the year by making waffles for the classes and focusing on building relationships, then moved into lessons on study skills, reading strategies, advocating for your self, making eye-contact with teachers and participating in a book group. Two target students ended up presenting at the school-wide Veteran's Assembly. All students were assessed by the DRA at the beginning of the year and will be monitored for progress. The large linkage schools decided to meet quarterly to share progress.

MSSP Connections/Collaborations

- The Curriculum Design Team's last meeting is on January 31st and they are in the process of writing up their initial recommendations for after school programming. The purpose of Team is to begin to develop a math and reading curriculum that will target common areas of need for students who are behind, will be culturally relevant, fun and engaging and can easily be used by out of school providers and tutors who might not be teachers. This work is made possible through a collaborative effort with Parks and Recreation Community Learning Centers (Donna Hudson) and MSSP.
- The Middle Schools are testing out a new 'number sense' math assessment that can be used as an indicator of students' overall math skills and useful in identifying interventions needed.
- The MSSP School Coordinators met in January to share strategies, challenges, to continue to build their professional learning community and consult with veteran school counselor Cory Kumasaka.
- The Innovation Schools as a whole are making good progress on working with key school partners in their building to support target students. The CLCs and YMCAs are critical partners for extended learning opportunities at all schools. Other important partners engaged in supporting target students at different schools include: Gear-up; Proyecto Saber; Wellness Center; the district Bilingual Office;
- Discussions are underway on how best to support middle school WASL prep during the February and Spring breaks. Schools are looking into using the new OSPI modules in various programs that are underway. Barb Salo (LAP) and Ruth Medsker, Middle School Director, are exploring possible pilot models for middle school WASL prep for either this year or next.

Upcoming February work includes:

- A working breakfast with the small Linkage schools
- Levy Oversight Committee Site Visit – February 28th.
- Site visit to Highline to see the middle school Read Right Classrooms and to meet with Read Right founder Dee Tadlock.
- Planning for the March site visit to KIPP schools in New York.
- Curriculum Design Team completes recommendations – begin implementation.